

TAKES PASTORATE



Rev. Marna S. Poulson.

Poulson Resigns Dry Post to Take Pastorate

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tion. I have wanted to undertake some rather large programs that my associates did not think wise. I am a great believer in an extensive educational program rather than so-called political activities. Politicians all too frequently muss up the attempts of the churches to form character; it then becomes necessary for the church forces to muss up things political by turning on the light that the people may see the professional politicians squirm. It has been an interesting five years and I am under the impression that it has been known that I was on the job."

Mr. and Mrs. Poulson live at 649 Central avenue, East Orange.

Long in Front Line.

Mr. Poulson for a quarter century has been active in the fight for prohibition.

Born at Northeast, Md., in 1869, the son of a temperance advocate and minister, Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Poulson, he followed in the footsteps of his forebears, both his grandfathers having been ministers.

Educated in the public schools of Baltimore and attended high school in New York, Mr. Poulson entered Adelphi College in Brooklyn as a student for the ministry and upon completion of his college course became probationer of the New York Methodist Conference. After four years, illness forced him to give up the ministry.

Rapid Advancement

In 1904 Mr. Poulson became field secretary of the National Temperance Society. He first attracted attention of dry leaders in a struggle for local option in Wilmington, Del.

The next year he became assistant superintendent of the Maryland Anti-Saloon League and subsequently took charge of the organization's office in the District of Columbia. In 1909 he was transferred to a similar post in Nebraska and while there earned an attorney's degree at Lincoln-Lee University.

Mr. Poulson was ordained as Congregational minister in 1918, serving for three years as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Portsmouth, Va., and an additional three years at Community Congregational Church of Ventnor City. While there he was vigorous in attacks on the wets and was vice president of the Anti-Saloon League of New Jersey when he resigned in 1924 to become state superintendent.

Since he has been in Newark, Mr. Poulson frequently has attacked the operation of speakeasies, blaming police and others for permitting them to exist. His militant administration took him into court in February, 1928, on a charge of criminal libel against three judges and led to his being fined \$500.

Poulson Resigns Dry Post Anti-Saloon League Head to Take Church

Rev. Marna S. Poulson, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of New Jersey, has resigned to accept the pastorate of the First Congregational Church of McKeesport, Pa. He will assume his new duties October 1.

Mr. Poulson announced today that he submitted his resignation to Elwood Hollingshead, president of the league, July 7. Mr. Hollingshead lives at Moorestown, and is both president of the league and chairman of the headquarters committee. He has called a special meeting of his committee for September 10 to act upon Mr. Poulson's resignation.

Mr. Hollingshead said he had no comment to make on the superintendent's retirement. He said no conferences had been held to decide on Mr. Poulson's successor and nothing would be done until the meeting.

Asked why he was leaving New Jersey, Mr. Poulson said: "When I accepted the invitation to become superintendent five years ago, I made up my mind I'd give it up when I was sixty years of age and before I had gotten to the place where my physical and mental activities were materially lessened. I shall be sixty next month and I have been called to a small but vigorous Congregational church where both Mrs. Poulson and I expect to have a wonderful time."

To Continue Work.

Mr. Poulson was asked if it meant that he was through with anti-liquor work. He replied: "Most certainly not. I shall do everything in my power to help the Anti-Saloon League work wherever I may be and whenever the opportunity comes. I believe in it and after twenty years on the inside I fully appreciate the eagerness of the liquor group and of wet politicians to besmirch and hamper it. The churches are largely responsible for the campaign that resulted in the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment. In my judgment they will be responsible if it receives any setback because of their indifference or lack of courage. I feel that I am in a position to say that over and over again most effectively now that I shall be a private in the ranks once more."

Asked if there had been any friction behind his action, Mr. Poulson said: "Not any more than one would expect from a lot of vigorous thinkers all of whom have their own ideas as to the way the work should be carried on. Of course, the superintendent is the chief executive officer responsible for results. We have not always agreed in council, but we have invariably agreed in action."

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